

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02052 181122 Z

46

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NSC-10 CU-04 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 IO-12 BNDE-00 SNM-02

RSR-01 /121 W

----- 099390

R 180910 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8812

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2052

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: SINGAPORE 1716

FOLLOWING IS YOUTH PARA NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

1. B. IN ASSIGNING WEIGHTS TO THESE CATEGORIES, TWO CRITERIA HAVE BEEN KEPT IN MIND: (1) RELATIVE AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE CATEGORY MEMBERS WILL BE EXERTING WITHIN OVERALL GOS INFLUENCE STRUCTURE AND (2) RELATIVE ACCESSIBILITY TO EMBASSY OFFICERS AND RECEPTIVITY OUR PROGRAMS.

YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS, ALL OF WHOM ARE CADRE OR ELECTED MP'S FROM RULING PEOPLES ACTION PARTY, ARE PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP IN TERMS OF POTENTIAL INFLUENCE, AND ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TO REACH. YOUNG BUREAUCRATS, WHILE SOMEWHAT LESS IMPORTANT THAN THEIR PAP COUNTERPARTS, ARE HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE AND WILL, IN TIME, BE MAKING POLICY DECISIONS. FOR SOME OF THEM, UPWARD MOBILITY IS RAPID. A SURPRISING NUMBER OF TOP OFFICIALS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02052 181122 Z

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE, REPRESENTING THE TOP CORPS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, ARE UNDER 35.. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ARE A LARGE AND RECEPTIVE GROUP, BUT ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH MAKING MONEY. EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY FACULTIES ARE NOT RPT NOT IMPORTANT WITHIN ESTABLISHED GOS INFLUENCE STRUCTURE, BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR ACCESSIBILITY, THE HIGHEST OF ALL CATEGORIES, AND THEIR POSITIONS FROM WHICH THEY CAN HEAVILY INFLUENCE YOUNG MINDS, WE RATED THEM AS HIGH AS 20 PERCENT.

OF OTHER CATEGORIES, ONLY LABOR HAS ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE. SINGAPORE RAPIDLY BEING UNIONIZED AND UNIONS IMPORTANT PAP SUPPORT GROUP; NINE OF CURRENT 65 MP' S ARE FROM UNION RANKS, AND MOST OF THESE ARE IN THEIR THIRTIES. STUDENTS ARE DOCILE AND OBSESSED WITH MAKING THE GRADE ( SEE REFTEL PARA ONE). THE FIGURE OF FIVE PER CENT FOR LEADERS OF NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTS OUR CONCERN WITH QUASI- POLITICAL PEOPLES ASSOCIATION ( WHICH ADMINISTERS SINGAPORE' S COMMUNITY CENTERS) AND NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE AND COULD HAVE JUST AS WELL BEEN PLACED IN POLITICAL OR BUREAUCRAT CATEGORIES ALTHOUGH PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF BOTH IS ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH.

1- C. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT INDIVIDUALS IN ANY OF THESE CATEGORIES WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON U. S. INTERESTS WITHIN NEXT FOUR YEARS. PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN POWER 13 YEARS AND ITS LEADERSHIP IS NO RPT NO LONGER YOUTHFUL. ALTHOUGH PAP ACTIVELY RECRUITS YOUTH CADRE, POWER OF DECISION, OR EVEN ABILITY TO INFLUENCE DECISION MAKING, FAR OUT OF THEIR REACH. GENERALLY SPEAKING, YOUTH IN SINGAPORE ( IN ANY CATEGORY) NOT SUFFICIENTLY POLITICIZED TO ACT AS PRESSURE GROUP ON ESTABLISHMENT. JUST TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING, YOUTH ACTIVITIES CLOSELY MONITORED BY GOVERNMENT AGENTS AND PAP CADRE. ( ALL STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION TO SINGAPORE' S TWO UNIVERSITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, REQUIRE A SUITABILITY CERTIFICATE.) SEE PARA TWO, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02052 181122 Z

REFTEL.

II- B. OF ALL ITEMS CHECKED, PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF BROAD US GOALS IS CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT AND IS, IN FACT, DIRECTLY RELATED TO ALL OTHER CHECKED CATEGORIES. EXCELLENT RATIONALE FOR EMPHASIS ON CREATING AND MAINTAINING FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD

US CONTAINED IN USIS SINGAPORE COUNTRY PLAN PROPOSAL. FOSTERING CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO BILATERAL TRADE AND US INVESTMENTS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE BUT NEED NOT RPT NOT BE OVERSTRESSED AS THERE ALREADY EXISTS COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS ON MOST ECONOMIC ISSUES. THE LAST SEVERAL ITEMS WERE NOT RPT NOT CHECKED BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING U. S. CAN OR SHOULD DO. EFFORTS TOWARD THESE OBJECTIVES WOULD HAVE LIMITED VALUE IN A COUNTRY AS ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE , CORRUPTION FREE, PRAGMATIC AND AT LEAST OSTENSIBLY DEMOCRATIC AS SINGAPORE.

III- A. CU SPONSORED ASIAN AND PACIFIC STUDENT LEADER PROJECT HAS HAD UNUSUAL DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN SINGAPORE AND IS, IN FACT, ONLY NON- ACADEMIC YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH U. S. THAT HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. THIS YEAR ( FY-73), ONE OF THE THREE SCHEDULED PROJECTS WAS CANCELLED AND ANOTHER THAT WAS RESCHEDULED CONFLICTED WITH SINGAPORE UNIVERSITIES FINAL EXAMS, ELIMINATING SINGAPORE CANDIDATES FROM PARTICIPATION. REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN TIMING THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN MADE BY SEPTEL TO CU.

AFS PROGRAM STILL IN SUSPENSION AFTER FLACK WITH SCHOOL OFFICIALS IN LATE 1971. DRUGS WERE MENTIONED AS REASON FOR DECISION BUT WAS UNSUBSTANTIATED. MORE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION IS STRONG GOS FEAR OF LOCAL RAMIFICATIONS SHOULD THEIR YOUNG ADOPT FREE WHEELING CRITICAL STYLES OF THEIR AMERICAN COUNTER-PARTS. LOCAL AFS MISMANAGEMENT DID NOT HELP. PROGRAM HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CANCELLED AND MAY, AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME, BE REVIVED.

III- C. THERE IS NO RPT NO PREACE CORPS PROGRAM IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SINGAP 02052 181122 Z

SINGAPORE.

IV- B. EMBASSY PERSONNEL SPEND ROUGHLY A TOTAL OF TEN MAN MONTHS PER YEAR ON YOUTH, THE BULK OF WHICH IS EQUALLY DIVIDED AMONG STATE AND USIA OFFICERS, MAINLY IN CONTACT WORK AND PROGRAMMING WITH MOST OF THE CATEGORIES CITED IN I- A. THE FIVE PERCENT ALLOCATED TO DOD MAINLY INVOLVES TRAINING PROGRAMS ( SEE PARA FIVE REFTEL). BNDD INVOLVES ITSELF WITH YOUNG BUREAUCRATS ( INCLUDING POLICE OFFICIALS) IN ITS EFFORTS CONTROL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.  
O' NEILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SINGAP02052  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730549/aaaajmso.tel  
**Line Count:** 169  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 SINGAPORE 1716  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980224  
**Subject:** YOUTH PARA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, n/a  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
SS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005